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Quebec

Historic vote



Quebec Liberal Leader Jean Charest casts his vote in his home riding of Sherbrooke yesterday. Despite a thin majority in yesterday's election, Charest became the first Quebec premier since the 1950s to win three consecutive mandates. **Story, pg 4**

Dion announces early exit

POLITICS It ended with an e-mail.

After a weekend when even loyalists began musing publicly that it was time for him to go, Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion had his office issue a statement that reiterated his intention to resign as soon as his successor is chosen — but this time a whole lot earlier than before.

Liberal MP Martha Hall Findlay, a Dion supporter since she backed him at the 2006 Liberal leadership convention after her



Stéphane Dion

riding last week.

"I think this has been a very difficult time for Stéphane Dion," she said Friday. "I watched ... a man ... completely vilified for 10 years because of all he had done to protect the unity of this country — I watched

own name was dropped off the ballot, noted the roller-coaster her colleague had been

that man sitting beside me basically called a traitor by the prime minister."

Dion loyalist and Liberal MP Bryon Wilfert said he was giving his leader some space yesterday.

"He needs some time to be on his own," Wilfert said about an hour before Dion announced his decision.

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
LEADERSHIP RACE, PG 4**



VIDEO What Dion's departure means for the Liberal party's future at metronews.ca/canada

Bus strike looming

OC Transpo union rejects city's final offer

TIM WIECLAWSKI
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Transit users should make other plans for getting around the city tomorrow.

The prospect of OC Transpo drivers, dispatchers and mechanics going on strike is much more likely after their union rejected the city's final offer yesterday.

"We understand the hardship that maybe played to some of the people that depend on using transit," said Mayor Larry O'Brien. "In these very, very difficult economic times, we are perplexed that they not only turned down the offer, but we are not convinced they have shared the offer with the membership."

O'Brien said union representatives had said they would not even present the offer to the members.

Last week, members of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 279 voted 98 per cent in favour of a strike if an agreement could not be reached by 12:01 a.m. tomorrow.

While both sides had planned to meet again today, last night Transit Services director Alain Mercier said no more negotiations are planned



Transit Services Director Alain Mercier, left, and Mayor Larry O'Brien announced yesterday that talks with OC Transpo union have broken off.

and there was no indication from the union there was a desire to talk.

Mercier said the final offer to the union consisted of a seven per cent wage increase over three years — three per cent in the first year, and two in each subsequent year; up to eight days of uncertified sick leave and advancements in the union position in terms of contracting out and scheduling.

To accommodate increased traffic, the city is encouraging employers to be more flexible in their hours. Restrictions on parking and transit lanes have also been eased downtown.

ShareYourViews

ottawalatters@metronews.ca

Ottawa pg 2

Food drive
a success

Health pg 11

Breast-cancer
breakthrough

Ottawa



A rise in pets being given up

The Ottawa Humane Society has seen a rise in the number of people surrendering their animals to the care of the shelter due to the cost of pet care and veterinary treatment — a trend that's expected to rise as the economic slowdown continues. The shelter helps 11,000 animals every year. Since early spring, the OHS has been operating at double capacity, with its wards full of nearly 350 cats and more than 60 dogs on any given day.

METRO OTTAWA

A huge haul for food drive

OC Transpo's annual Christmas event brings in 92,000 pounds of food

TRACEY TONG
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The Ottawa Food Bank got an early Christmas gift yesterday after Santa Claus swung by — in his OC Transpo bus.

When Santa delivered thousands of pounds of food donations — collected at Loblaws, Real Canadian Superstores and Independent Grocers over the weekend — volunteers were already on hand to unload them all.

The nonperishable food donations, which filled more than half the bus, brings the total amount of food collected during the 24th annual OC Transpo Christmas food drive to 92,000 pounds of food — up from 78,000 pounds collected in 2007 and one of the biggest hauls ever, said Ottawa Food Bank's executive director Peter Tilley.

The donations, which pick up where the Thanksgiving food drive left off,



Ottawa Food Bank executive director Peter Tilley passes donations collected at Saturday's Christmas food drive to Pierre Morin, a.k.a. Santa Claus, at the food bank yesterday. Tilley said the drive collected 92,000 pounds of food, which will take the food bank through February 09.

will take the food bank through not only the Christmas season, but through January and February, Tilley said.

The food bank serves 4,300 people a month. And

although they haven't seen an increase of clients due to the recession yet, Tilley wants to be prepared.

Tilley, who visited the sites where volunteers collected donations Saturday,

said people were very generous.

He also praised all the OC Transpo workers and their families, who volunteered their time for this annual event.

"It's a good cause," said OC Transpo employee Pierre Morin, who volunteered in the drive for the second year. "It's always rewarding to see people smiling. And having a full belly is important, especially this time of year."

Loblaws store manager Nathalie Aubry, who co-ordinated the drive from the stores' end, said employees really took hold of the cause and in some cases, made it their own.

One of the smaller stores brought in a live band to attract donations, she said. In addition to food, the stores also collected about \$10,000, she added.

"People were really into giving," she said.

Tilley expects that even more donations will come in via smaller drives taking place in the city. And those donations are important too, he said.

"We not only feed families at Christmas, but year-round," he said. "Hunger isn't seasonal."

Robbers 'confine' workers

TRACEY TONG
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CRIME Police are seeking several armed robbers after employees were "confined" during a grocery-store robbery early yesterday morning.

At 2:17 a.m., officers responded to a 911 call at the Food Basics at 1465 Merivale Rd.

Although the store wasn't open at the time of the incident, people were working there, said Ottawa police Const. J.P. Vincelette.

"What we understand is that people were rounded up by the suspects," Vincelette said.

The suspects freed themselves and met police outside the building.

"It wasn't a hostage situation," said Vincelette.

Members of the Ottawa Police Tactical Section proceeded to search the building as a precautionary measure.

No suspects were found and no arrests have been made at this time. There is no information on what the suspects stole.

None of the employees were injured in the incident.

Anyone with information is asked to call 613-236-1222, ext. 5110 or Crime Stoppers at 613-233-8477 (TIPS).

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video What does Dion's departure mean for the Liberal party's future at metronews.ca/canada

Read An interview with Arianna Huffington, the 2008 Media Person of the Year, at metronews.ca/world



SIU clears police in garage explosion

TRACEY TONG
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INVESTIGATION Two Ottawa police officers have been cleared of any criminal offence in connection with an explosion that left a woman seriously burned in August.

Just before 10:30 p.m. on Aug. 11, Ottawa police responded to a call on Sunset Boulevard regarding a

woman who was threatening to set the garage on fire with herself in it.

The responding officers were standing outside the two-storey home awaiting backup when the attached garage exploded. The officers entered the burning garage, removed the 43-year-old woman and rendered first aid. She suffered second- and third-degree burns to nearly 70 per cent

of her body. She remains in hospital, where she is receiving treatment for her injuries.

"There is no connection between the injuries suffered by this woman and the actions of the subject officers," said SIU Director Ian Scott in a release. "In fact, her injuries would have likely been much more severe without their intervention."

During the course of its

investigation, the SIU interviewed two subject officers, three witness officers and seven civilian witnesses, including family members and neighbours, as well as three emergency medical services personnel. Investigators also reviewed police communications tapes.

The SIU is a civilian agency that investigates cases of serious injuries and deaths involving the police.

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Options for the Community During a Transit Disruption

Major transit service disruptions are hard on everyone, especially seniors and families with children. That is why the City of Ottawa is doing all we can to reach a fair settlement that respects our taxpayers and transit riders.

Without public transit there will be more vehicles on the road, which will lead to more traffic congestion. Speak with your employer about alternative work arrangements—working from home or changing your work hours to avoid traditional rush hour periods.

If you need to drive during a transit service disruption, carpooling is the best way to go. Carpooling reduces the number of vehicles on the road, reducing traffic congestion, and saves you money on gas. Please visit ottawaridematch.com to find carpool partners near your home or work place.

However you choose to travel—by foot, bicycle or car, please remember to travel safely.

To make the commute easier, some parking regulations will be relaxed temporarily and some City bus-only lanes will be opened to regular traffic. (See Traffic and Parking regulations below.)

Public safety is our number one priority. We will share information with schools, hospitals, emergency services and other community partners to enhance public safety during a disruption.

This information is provided to assist you in getting to work, school or appointments. Please take the time to read it, and contact us if you have any questions. Your city government is doing everything we can to keep the City's transit service on the road and we appreciate your efforts in this challenging time.

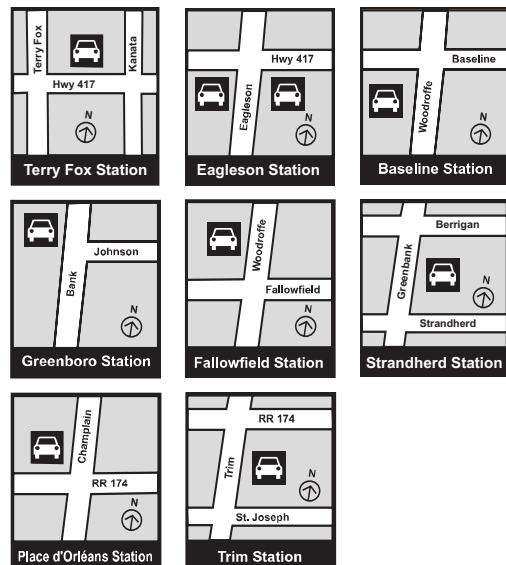
Carpooling

Ridematching services are available on the Internet to help drivers and passengers find carpools. We encourage you to organize a carpool at your school or workplace. Follow the links provided at ottawa.ca, octranspo.com or ottawaridematch.com

Park & Ride for Carpooling

During a transit disruption, any OC Transpo Park & Ride lot may be used as a carpooling point for people wanting to share rides. These include Terry Fox, Eagleson, Baseline, Fallowfield, Strandherd, Greenboro, Orléans, and Trim, as well as smaller lots at Carp, Richmond, Manotick, Leitrim, Vars, Navan and Notre-Dame-des-Champs and other locations. For more details and information, check ottawa.ca, ottawaridematch.com or octranspo.com, or call 613-741-4390, or 3-1-1.

Some of the Park & Ride Locations



INFO 613-741-4390 TTY 613-741-5280
octranspo.com

Transit Pass Holders

Please hold on to your transit pass and Park & Ride permit. They will serve as credits towards the purchase of future passes.

ECOPASS Holders

Automatic payments for ECOPASS will continue, and ECOPASS subscribers will be credited at a future date.

O-Train

The O-Train service will experience the same disruption as OC Transpo buses.

Teleworking

If your job is suitable for teleworking from home, consider speaking with your employer about this option. Telework is not for everyone, but it may work for you during the transit labour disruption.

Para Transpo Customers

Para Transpo service will continue as usual. Service may take longer than normal, as these vehicles will face increased traffic congestion. Transit passes and tickets may be purchased at these locations:

- All City of Ottawa Client Service Centres
- Your regular neighbourhood pass and ticket vendors

NOTE: All OC Transpo Sales Centres will be closed during a service disruption.

Transit Service Updates

For transit service updates, please visit octranspo.com or monitor regular media reports, or call us at 613-741-4390 or 3-1-1.

Traffic and Parking Regulations

During a transit disruption, there will likely be up to 20 per cent more vehicles on the road. To help accommodate this additional traffic, we have made the following adjustments:

On-street Parking

You will be able to park all day where one-, two- and three-hour unmetered parking is currently permitted. You will not be able to park where stopping and parking are prohibited.

Metered Parking

Parking meter charges and regulations will remain in effect to ensure short-term parking is available for customers of local business. Do not park in metered spaces beyond specified times.

Bus-only Lanes on City Streets

The bus lanes on Albert and Slater Streets, Mackenzie King Bridge, Montreal Road, Rideau Street (east of King Edward) and Woodroffe Avenue will be open to public use at all times.

Transitway Restricted to Emergency Vehicles

For the safety of the community, access to the Transitway and bus-only lanes on Highway 417 and the 174 will be restricted to emergency vehicles only including police, fire and ambulance.

Tow-away Zones

To ensure that key traffic lanes remain clear, tow-away zones will be strictly enforced.

Other Regulations

All other regulations in the Traffic and Parking By-Law will remain in effect, such as:

- all no-stopping regulations
- corner-parking restrictions
- blocking of driveways
- fire hydrants and fire routes

Traffic updates

For traffic updates and reports, listen to Information Radio 99.7 FM.



John McCrae Secondary School Grade 11 students Sarah Campbell, left, and Morgan Ackerland, right, and Netherlands Ambassador Wim Geerts make a Maple Leaf with their hands at the Canadian War Museum to launch a 2010 national student tour.

Students remember

Tour slated for Europe in 2010

TIM WIECLAWSKI
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Morgan Ackerland just returned from a trip commemorating the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Ortona.

And the John McCrae Secondary School Grade 11 student can't wait to go back.

"You just get this feeling of pride for your country and pride for everyone else that is there. It gives you shivers," he said.

Morgan Ackerland, Grade 11 student

He's hoping to make another trip in 2010 to mark the 65th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe on May 8 and the liberation of the Netherlands on May 5.

Thousands of students from across Canada will be travelling to Europe for the anniversary. There are currently 33 schools across the country signed up for the tour.

As part of the journey, students will be matched with the names of a First World War and a Second World War soldier from

their community or nearby regiment, said tour co-ordinator David Robinson. The students will wear the names of their adopted soldiers during remembrance ceremonies.

Each Canadian school will also present a Dutch school with a maple tree to plant, "so that once again each Memorial Day, our friendship is renewed with the spring," he said.

More than 42,000 Canadian soldiers were killed in the Second World War — 7,600 of whom lost

their lives fighting to liberate the Netherlands. Ambassador Wim Geerts said the entire nation holds a deep gratitude for the service Canadian soldiers did for the Netherlands.

"They died for our peace, for our freedom and our democracy," he said.

He said that sentiment is carried forward today, with respect and sympathy for Canadian and Dutch soldiers working together in Kandahar and Oruzghan, two of the most dangerous provinces in Afghanistan.

News in brief

PROTEST Ontario's rural landowners association rolled into downtown Ottawa causing traffic delays as it headed to Parliament Hill to voice its opposition to a proposed Liberal-NDP coalition yesterday morning. Farmers, landowners, loggers and small-business owners headed toward Parliament Hill

from opposite ends of the city with tractors and other machinery during the morning commute. Farmers entered the city from the east end at Innes Road and Windmill Lane. In the west, protesters caused traffic disruptions as far west as March Road at Carling Avenue.

CTVOTTAWA.CA

Police dismantled an explosive device found in a north Edmonton Rona store yesterday afternoon. Police would not elaborate on the situation except to say that the public was never in danger and that a person of interest is in custody. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada



'Pompous egghead'

Tapes of a conversation between former U.S. president Richard Nixon and former prime minister Pierre Trudeau, left, have been released publicly. The two-hour talk about trade between Canada and America took place on Dec. 6, 1971, and led Nixon to call Trudeau a "pompous egghead" and a "clever son of a bitch." **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Charest wins rare third term

Quebec Liberal leader Jean Charest managed a rare feat last night, becoming the first Quebec premier to win three consecutive mandates since Maurice Duplessis, against a much stronger showing for Parti Québécois Leader Pauline Marois than anyone expected.

Questions will certainly be asked, however, as to

why support for Charest's Liberals was more tepid than imagined, and whether Prime Minister Stephen Harper's aggressive denunciations of Quebec separatists last week contributed to the healthy sovereignist result.

The gains made by the Liberals and the Pauline Marois's PQ came at the expense of the ADQ, which

'Separatists' mobilized

As the political showdown played out in Ottawa last week and Prime Minister Stephen Harper launched a sustained attack on the Liberal-NDP

coalition with the "separatists," analysts suggested the federal crisis might mobilize sovereignists to Charest's detriment on the eve of the election.

was being pushed back to marginal status in the 125-seat National Assembly.

Another surprising trend was a sustained lead for Amir Khadir in the Mon-

treal riding of Mercier, ahead of star PQ incumbent Daniel Turp. Khadir is the co-leader of the ultra-left wing, sovereignist party Quebec Solidaire, which was trying to capture sovereignist activists disillusioned by the PQ.

Major news organizations called the majority victory for Charest's Liberals barely a half hour after

the polls closed last night, but by press time, the majority was slight.

It was a remarkably different picture than that which emerged on election night 2007, when Charest nearly lost the premier's chair to the Action démocratique du Québec's Mario Dumont, and ended up leading a minority government. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Auto bailout to be ready next month, Tories say

ECONOMY The Canadian government aims to hammer out details of a multi-billion-dollar aid package for the struggling auto industry by its next federal budget in late January, the federal industry minister said yesterday.

As the White House and U.S. Democrats moved toward a deal to rescue Detroit's Big Three automakers, valued as high as \$15 billion US, Canadian Industry Minister Tony Clement said Ottawa would demand eventual payback of any money it contributes.

"None of us are considering a bailout without strings attached," Clement told CBC Television. "We're looking at loans." **REUTERS**

Ignatieff's 'coronation' comes under fire

POLITICS Liberal Bob Rae is opposing what he calls the "coronation" of rival Michael Ignatieff, painting himself as the champion of democracy and calling for a party-wide vote to select the next Liberal leader.

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion yesterday cleared the way for a fast-track leadership contest, pledging to step aside as soon as one is chosen.

That's expected tomorrow when Liberal MPs and senators meet behind closed doors to give their nod to Ignatieff.

But Rae is making it clear that he won't quietly end his leadership bid, despite mounting pressure to step aside and let Ignatieff take the crown unopposed.

"I don't think coronations are generally very

MARK BLUNCH/REUTERS



Bob Rae, left, is greeted by fellow Liberal MP Gerard Kennedy as he speaks yesterday in Toronto.

successful in political parties ... Most people believe it's better to have a contest, it's better to have a choice," Rae told reporters in Toronto.

"What I'm proposing has a simple name — it's democracy," he said.

Since only a delegated convention can select a permanent leader, Ignatieff's appointment would be ratified by acclamation at the Liberal leadership convention in May if Rae were to withdraw from the race. If Rae chooses not to

withdraw, Ignatieff would have to fight for the crown.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



VIDEO What does Dion's departure mean for the Liberal party's future at metronews.ca/canada

Men found after Nunavut plane crash

SURVIVORS Rescuers have found a Dane and a Swede who went missing Sunday night after their twin-engine plane crashed on the ice in the Hudson Strait.

The men spent 18 hours wandering the ice near Baffin Island in -20 C temperatures, wearing just the clothes they had on when they crashed. But other than a "mild" case of frostbite and hypothermia for one of the crash victims, they're fine, said Halifax-based Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre spokeswoman Jeri Grychowski.

"They appear to be in good condition," Grychowski told Metro.

RACHEL BOOMER/METRO CANADA

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News in brief

HEALTH Ontario needs to do a better job of ensuring the safety of meat products by following up on food-safety violations in slaughterhouses and meat-processing plants, says provincial Auditor General Jim McCarter. A number of abattoirs and free-standing meat processors were found to have "major and serious" deficiencies according to yesterday's report.

ATTACK A favourite noisemaker at hockey games was wielded as a weapon at a matchup in western Newfoundland, CBC News Online reports. RCMP said a man blew an air horn into an ear of a 13-year-old boy during a game at De Grau on Friday night. A 25-year-old has been charged with assault and assault with a weapon.

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China, Russia to join forces for satellite probes

China will team up with Russia to launch two satellite probes to take pictures of Mars and one of its small moons in October next year as it seeks to cement its place in the ranks of global space powers. A Chinese-built probe will piggy-back on a Russian-built rocket which will also carry a Russian satellite. **REUTERS**

5

World



Shopping rampage

A bull bought for the Muslim Eid al-Adha festival charged through a posh shopping mall in the Bangladesh capital of Dhaka yesterday, causing panic and damaging several shops. No one was hurt in the incident, which took place in the city's Gulshan diplomatic area. **REUTERS**

More riots likely in Greece

The funeral today of a teenager shot dead by police was expected to provoke more riots in Greece following three days of the country's worst unrest in decades.

The 15-year-old boy's killing on Saturday night has fanned public anger at unpopular economic policies and scandals as the global financial crisis reaches Greece.

Thousands of protesters burned and looted shops in central Athens and tear gas choked Syntagma Square outside the Greek parliament, as police clashed with left-wing demonstrators yesterday.

More than 50 people have been hurt and scores of shops, banks and cars damaged. Police arrested about 150 people.

The shooting victim, Alexandros Grigoropoulos, will be buried today. Police were bracing for more violence around the funeral and during a general strike called for tomorrow.

The government denied reports it was planning to declare a state of emergency, but Prime Minister



A protester throws a stone at riot policemen yesterday outside of the main administrative building of the University of Athens. Thousands of protesters rampaged through the heart of Athens yesterday on a third day of riots sparked by the killing of a teenager by police. **REUTERS/JOHN KOLESIDIS**

Costas Karamanlis was due to meet the president and party political leaders to discuss the crisis today.

Protests erupted in more than 10 Greek cities, and Greeks abroad have protested in London and Berlin.

REUTERS

Protesters aim for revolution

• The protests mark a "social revolution" that will last as long as is necessary, activist Panagiotis Sotiris said yesterday. "We ask for the ministers

who are responsible for this to resign and we want to topple the government and its policies. The protests will last as long as necessary," he said.

Blackwater guards charged in deaths

IRAQ Five Blackwater security guards were charged yesterday with killing 14 unarmed civilians and wounding 20 others in a 2007 shooting in Baghdad that outraged Iraqis.

U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Taylor said one of the victims was shot in the chest while standing with his hands up in the air, while another victim was injured from a grenade fired into a nearby girls' school.

The U.S. Justice Department charged the men with 14 counts of manslaughter, 20 counts of attempt to commit manslaughter and one weapons-violation count. The men could face 10 years in prison for each manslaughter charge, plus time for other charges.

"The government alleges in the documents unsealed today that at least 34 unarmed Iraqi civilians, in-

cluding women and children, were killed or injured without justification or provocation by these Blackwater security guards in the shooting at Nisoor Square," said Patrick Rowan, assistant attorney general for national security.

A sixth guard pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and attempt to commit manslaughter, the Justice Department said.

REUTERS

Shooting

- The shooting occurred as the private security firm's guards escorted a heavily armed four-truck convoy of U.S. diplomats through Baghdad on Sept. 16, 2007.
- The guards, U.S. military veterans, were responding to a car bombing when shooting erupted in a crowded intersection.

Ruling party takes 3 Indian elections

VOTE India's ruling party won three of five state elections yesterday, defying predictions of a political battering after both an economic slowdown and attacks on Mumbai.

Final results were still being counted late yesterday for two out of the five state elections that were held over the last month, mostly in central and western India.

The votes come before national elections in 2009 that will pit a ruling Congress-led coalition against an opposition alliance led by the Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Congress held on to Delhi and the western state of Rajasthan, where the BJP was incumbent and conceded defeat. Incumbents

traditionally fare badly in Indian elections.

Congress also won in a landslide in the remote, small northeastern state of Mizoram, where it fought a regional party.

The BJP had an insurmountable lead in Madhya Pradesh and looked close to returning to power in Chhattisgarh, where vote counting was expected to go on through the night.

The outcome is a boost for Congress, which has suffered a string of state election defeats against the BJP in the last year amid rising inflation and accusations of weak leadership.

It is a setback for the BJP, which had hoped its policy of accusing Congress of being soft on terrorism would reap political dividends. **REUTERS**

Drug violence in Mexico doubled this year: Official

MEXICO The number of people killed in the country by drug violence has more than doubled this year to nearly 5,400 people and 2009 could be even worse, Attorney General Eduardo Medina Mora said.

The official death toll of 5,376 for the year so far is higher than media estimates and more than twice the 2,477 people killed in 2007. Most victims were rival drug-gang members or police.

Medina Mora said the surge in killings by drug gangs, who use gruesome tactics like beheading their victims, would likely worsen next year. **REUTERS**

Pilgrims take part in hajj stoning

SAUDI ARABIA More than two million Muslim pilgrims stoned walls symbolising the devil in a narrow valley outside Mecca in Saudi Arabia yesterday at the most dangerous stage of the hajj pilgrimage.

Pilgrims began three days of stoning and celebrated the first day of Eid al-Adha, commemorating the willingness of biblical patriarch Abraham to sacrifice his son for God.

"It took a long time since

they made us go in one line, but it was easy to do," said Osama Khashaba, an Egyptian accountant, after throwing stones at the Jamarat Bridge in a ritual that represents rejection of temptation.

Authorities have made renovations to ease the flow of pilgrims at the bridge, adding an extra level so that they have four platforms from which to throw stones each day.

Pilgrims were also asked

Previous deaths

- The bridge in the valley of Mena just outside Mecca has been the scene of a number of deadly stampedes. The last was in 2006 when 362 people were crushed to death.

to throw stones at any time of day rather than only in the afternoon, as Saudi clerics had insisted in the past.

REUTERS

News in brief

CRIME A New York lawyer who heads the 250-attorney law firm Dreier LLP was charged yesterday with perpetrating a

brazen, \$100-million US real-estate investment fraud that targeted hedge funds. Marc Dreier, who already faced a

charge of criminal impersonation by Canadian authorities, faces federal charges of securities and wire fraud. **REUTERS**





NEWS
Weeknights 6:00

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Women demand more say in UN climate talks

United Nations climate change talks should do more to incorporate women's concerns into negotiations on a new global pact, environmental and women's groups said yesterday.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) said poor women in developing countries would be affected most by climate change because of its impact on agriculture, food security and water

management — traditionally women's tasks.

It also said they are more likely to be killed in disasters caused by extreme weather — girls in some cultures do not learn how to swim or climb trees. Despite this, most of the debate on climate change at UN talks has been "gender-blind," it said.

"As women, we look for water and firewood — we understand the environment better. And as

"As women, we believe gender issues must be incorporated in all decision-making on climate change."

Rejoice Mabudafhasi, South African politician

women, we believe gender issues must be incorporated in all decision-making on climate change," said Rejoice Mabudafhasi, South Africa's deputy minister for environment and tourism.

GenderCC, an international network of non-governmental organizations, called on governments at the Dec. 1 to 12 talks in Poland to adopt a resolution on gender justice and set up a group that could

make formal inputs into the negotiations.

It also proposed around a third of funds to help countries adapt to the effects of climate change should be earmarked for local work that builds women's resilience.

"We need new funding instruments beyond market-based mechanisms, otherwise women and their endeavours to mitigate climate change will not benefit," said Dorah

Lebelo of the Greenhouse Project in South Africa.

Lorena Aguilar, IUCN gender advisor, said the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change was the only international convention without a gender mandate.

Women at the talks said they were disappointed at the lack of interest in their proposals from the UN climate change secretariat and government negotiators. **REUTERS**

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Pakistan Taliban blazes



People look at burnt military vehicles on the outskirts of Peshawar yesterday. For a second night running, Pakistani Taliban torched dozens of containers full of supplies meant for Western forces in Afghanistan.

Hillary Clinton goes for dinner at Condoleezza Rice's home

Hillary Clinton was invited to have dinner with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at Rice's apartment in Washington's exclusive Watergate complex, a State Department official said.

Earlier yesterday, Clinton made her first visit to the State Department since Democratic president-elect Barack Obama named her as his choice for the next secretary of state, the official said.

Clinton spent several

hours with members of the department's transition team,

Rice has said Obama's choice of Clinton for the post was "terrific."

If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Clinton will be the third woman to be secretary of state, after Rice and Madeleine Albright, who was appointed by Hillary Clinton's husband, former president Bill Clinton, in the 1990s. **REUTERS**

News in brief

CRIME A New York City police officer is expected to be charged with beating and sodomizing a man with a police baton on a subway platform. A lawyer for officer Richard Kern, 25, who is accused of being the leader in the assault, said his client has been ordered to surrender to

police yesterday. Michael Mineo, 24, claims he was approached by several uniformed police officers in the early afternoon on Oct. 15. The officers followed Mineo into a nearby subway station, where they allegedly beat and sodomized him with a baton.

REUTERS

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Comment

Nobleman vs. Doberman

Less fodder for Tory attacks with Iggy at Liberal helm

NationalReport



So much for the Liberal leadership race. For all intents and purposes, it's over. The nightmare before Christmas — the political pandemonium of the last two weeks — has touched off a rush to anoint Michael Ignatieff as the new man.

Anointed he likely will be. The third candidate, Dominic LeBlanc, has exited the race and is throwing his support behind Iggy. A bandwagon effect is in course. The date of the convention, if there is one, will be being moved to January, meaning that Bob Rae, who needed time to stage a fight, won't have it. Without it, he is finished. His

fundamental problem was that his baggage from his days as Ontario premier, 16 years ago, would not go away. Sometimes we forgive. Sometimes we don't. In his case, we didn't.

The installation of Mr. Ignatieff means that the luck of the Conservatives, who have feasted on Dion tenderloin for two years, is likely over.

Sir Michael has his own encumbrances. He is patrician, to the manor born, lacking in the common touch. He is inexperienced, having only been in politics for three years and he signed on, reluctantly, to the coalition deal. On the plus side, he is intellectually radiant and an effective communicator with a presence that is commanding. He knows that the most important thing in politics is messaging. Stephen Harper illustrated this last week when, in the space of a couple of days, he brilliantly changed the national discussion from his pathetic

The installation of Mr. Ignatieff means that the luck of the Conservatives, who have feasted on Dion tenderloin for two years, is likely over.

economic statement to national unity.

The Conservatives will berate Mr. Ignatieff as an egghead and beat him up for signing the coalition pact. But his being new to politics means the fire-breathing Harper will have less ammunition on which to base cheap attack ads. While Bob Rae has many of the Iggy qualities and is much more seasoned, the Harper team would have unlimited gunpowder with him as Liberal leader.

Mr. Ignatieff is also situated more in the centre of the political spectrum and will end, for better or for worse,

the leftward drift of the party. He will be in a strong position to rebuild the party in Quebec now that the prime minister has alienated so many in La Belle Province with his demonization of the Bloc Québécois.

With his impressive standing in the polls, Mr. Harper is probably tempted himself to push for an election. The public, caught up in politics to a degree seldom seen, might not be opposed to going to the polls again.

But with Mr. Dion stepping down, the chemistry changes. A new Liberal leader cannot probably help but move his party's numbers upward.

Mr. Ignatieff will move cautiously, easing off on any coalition commitment. A mighty chess match will ensue between him, a nobleman, and the prime minister, a Doberman.

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.

Views

How the coalition helped propel Harper in polls



The proposed Liberal-NDP-Bloc coalition government is as good as dead — gone as quickly as it was formed.

Just days after it was announced, Liberal MPs started distancing themselves from it. Then Stéphane Dion — the coalition's proposed prime minister — bungled a videotaped speech made for national TV. And then the Governor General granted Stephen Harper a breather by cancelling Parliament for a month.

But the real nails in the coffin are polls showing that Canadians deeply oppose the coalition. The scheme

has backfired, and Harper has skyrocketed to his highest level of support yet. How could the opposition have miscalculated so badly?

Three reasons. Personal animosity towards Harper blinded the opposition. During the election, the opposition ran ads that were intensely personal, implying that Harper wasn't really Canadian.

The election debate was even harsher. The other leaders, sitting just feet away from him, looked him in the eye and called him a liar and incompetent.

That's their first mistake: the opposition thought that Canadians shared their hate for Harper — so much so that they'd accept any trick to kick him out of office, including a deal with the Bloc Québécois.

The second mistake was that the opposition listened to the media. Reporters tend to be liberal. But the Parliamentary press gallery has had a running feud with Harper — even going on "strike" for a while, when they didn't like how Harper chose which reporters' questions to answer. The media's first reaction to the coalition was excitement and support. But that elite opinion was formed in part by their own hostility to Harper.

But the biggest reason why the opposition got this one wrong is the inclusion of the Bloc in the deal. Simply put, Canadians are scared of them, and don't want separatists choosing our prime minister or having a veto over our government. Canadians found it shock-

ing the opposition would do that.

When the Bloc was first formed in 1990, the Liberals and the media were just as appalled as everyone else. But over the past 18 years, as they've rubbed shoulders with Bloc MPs, they've become numb to their dangerous mission. To Ottawa, the Bloc is now normal. But to the rest of Canada, the whole thing is worse than bizarre — it is dangerous.

Signing a contract with Quebec separatists isn't normal in the eyes of Canadians — no matter what Harper-hating opposition MPs or their sympathetic media friends, say.

Ezra Levant is a lawyer, author and free-speech activist who blogs at www.ezralevant.com. He volunteered in the Conservative war-room during the last election.

THE NEW LIBERAL LEADER :



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Letters

OC Transpo route cuts contradict Ottawa ideals

I am extremely disheartened to hear of the proposed budget cuts to the OC Transpo routes within the Gloucester Ward.

I am a full-time student at Carleton University, and I also work two part-time jobs.

As I have many night classes at school and work on Saturdays, this proposed cut would be devastating for my transportation to and from school and work.

It seems paradoxical for the City of Ottawa to be cutting bus routes in the face of its highest ridership in its history.

Ottawa claims to be a forward-thinking and environmentally friendly city, but how can these claims be legitimized when riders are forced to use cars in order to commute to work or school?

ALAYNA WRIGHT, OTTAWA

A hunger for politics

I am sure many of us did not know that there was a word called "prorogue" and we all learned something

new with this coalition agreement.

While we were discussing the newly discovered word "prorogue," somebody said this word sounds like "pierogi/perogie."

That was that — we got a sudden craving for perogies; we decided to prorogue our session and go for a perogie break. I thought that was funny.

ANANT NAGPUR, OTTAWA

Kudos to editorial cartoonist

I have particularly enjoyed the small editorial cartoons in Metro.

Editorial cartoonists have a unique talent of highlighting the crux of the issue and giving readers a better appreciation and understanding of the issue. Michael de Adder's cartoons are clean and not cluttered. I put him in the class of Aislin (Montreal Gazette), Norris and Peterson.

His cartoons are an invaluable addition to Metro and provide interesting and stimulating inclusion in our household.

Keep up the good work.

FRANKLIN CHOW, OTTAWA

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: ottawalatters@metronews.ca


Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

Royal Bank said yesterday it plans to issue up to \$2.3 billion in common shares to bolster its regulatory capital ratio, in what would be the second-largest stock sale by a Canadian bank this year. Royal Bank said that it would issue 56.75 million common shares at \$35.25 a share. The offering is expected to close Dec. 22. **REUTERS**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

DOLLAR		
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TSX rides oil to higher close

Toronto's main stock index closed at its highest level in more than a week yesterday in a broad-based rally supported by a rebound in oil prices and optimism that stimulus measures around the globe would help avert a deeper slide in the economy.

The resource-heavy index, coming off a 12 per cent skid last week, surged at the open and hung on to the bulk of its gains as the price of oil bounced off the four-year low set last week.

The Toronto Stock Exchange's S&P/TSX composite index closed 450.09 points, or 5.55 per cent, higher, at 8,567.12, with

all of its 10 main sectors up.

Shares of oil company EnCana Corp. shot 9.34 per cent higher to \$55.61 and were the biggest driver of the TSX's gain. Suncor Energy rallied 6.59 per cent to close at \$23.30.

Adding to the rally's momentum was a pledge by U.S. president-elect Barack

Obama to invest in a massive infrastructure plan to help bolster the anemic U.S. economy.

Stock markets around the world rebounded yesterday, helped by several governments reinforcing their plans for countering the economic crisis, while higher oil prices gave an added boost. **REUTERS**

Business in brief

FORECAST Insurance credit-rating agency A.M. Best Co. said yesterday that it believes "unprecedented negative financial conditions" will pose difficulties for Canadian life insurers well into 2009. Although the outlook is currently stable, the rating agency said that this could change if the economy deteriorates, which would likely bring higher credit defaults, equity market volatility, lower consumer confidence and

weaker product sales.

AUTOS The White House and congressional Democrats were expected to finalize yesterday a \$15-billion US proposal to bail out automakers, a plan that will carry stiff conditions to sell the package to lawmakers. The legislation will face its most crucial test in the 100-member Senate, where it must receive 60 votes to overcome procedural hurdles. **REUTERS**

BCE deal on brink of collapse

TELECOM A \$34.8-billion leveraged buyout of BCE Inc., Canada's biggest telecom company, is all but certain to collapse later this week as the prospects of a last-minute rescue grow dimmer.

Ever since BCE said late last month that its accountants, KPMG, had

ruled the company that would emerge from the deal would fail a solvency test because of its huge debt load, hopes for the completion of the world's largest leveraged buyout deal have sunk along with its share price.

KPMG's opinion on the financial viability of BCE

after its buyout is a condition to the deal's closing, which is scheduled for Thursday. Without it, the transaction is unlikely to proceed, BCE said.

"This deal is all but dead," National Bank Financial analyst Greg MacDonald said yesterday. **REUTERS**

Chicago Workers stage sit-in



Gustavo Ramirez, an 11-year employee of Republic Windows & Doors, stands guard at the door to the business's warehouse in Chicago, yesterday. Workers at the plant are staging a sit-in to protest the plant's closing without giving them advance notice, leaving the workers without state-mandated compensation.

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Your Money

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Big gifts with small prices

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With gift giving in full swing, we thought we'd share our favourite gift ideas for the fabulous people on your list this year.

Sandra's Pick

Give the gift of experience and the opportunity to save big by giving the 2009 Entertainment book. For less than \$50 the book is a collection of vouchers redeemable at both local and national businesses. Savings are available for a variety of things, including movies, restaurants, sporting events, gas and more.

For an added touch of thoughtfulness, flip through the book before wrapping and tag a few places you know the gift

recipient would love to go. Check out *entertainment.com* to learn more.

Angela's Pick

For the fashionable and simply fabulous friend on your list, check out Cheeky Umbrella. Not only is each umbrella stylish and sturdy, but each comes with a sassy statement scrolled along the underside ("When does it start raining men?" and "It's raining, it's pouring, other umbrellas are boring"). This gift is the perfect accessory to the rainy-day wardrobe and is sure to brighten even the darkest of days. Check it out at *cheekyumbrella.com*.

Katie's Pick

What better way to give a gift of all the memories you have shared than with a photo album. Now you can digitally create your own photo book complete with a hard cover and sleeve. Apple and *Snapfish.com* offer fabulous products that allow you to drag and drop your photos into a work of art. An album can be completed

within minutes and shipping can take as little as five business days. The cost of a photo books generally starts around \$20, depending on the format and number of pages you include.

Andrea's Pick

Nothing is more thoughtful (and as easy on your wallet) than something homemade. So this holiday season, why not grab some girlfriends and spend an evening drinking wine and baking up your own specialty dessert? Take four to five pieces of your homemade deliciousness, wrap it with some clear or coloured cellophane paper (\$1 at your local dollar store), tie it off with some ribbon and voila — you have a gift for only \$3 per bag. For Andrea's favourite fudge recipe, try Googling "food network" and "old time chocolate fudge".

Robyn's Pick

Of course you could check out our site at *smartcookies.com* for ideas (we wouldn't be Smart Cookies

if we didn't mention it). For just \$5 a month, or \$50 a year, you can get a premium subscription for someone special in your life. Members will be able to download resources, create a spending plan, and receive e-mail reminders regarding their financial and life goals, along with a free credit report, notices of special Smart Cookie offers and much more.

If you have questions or suggestions for the Smart Cookies, e-mail us at *smartcookies@metronews.ca*.

Tune in Wednesday night at 9 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit *smartcookies.com* for more tips.

Investing

Allan Small

The week's column looks at job losses and the restructuring of companies. Visit *metronews.ca*

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Plant those tax seeds now

Q I am self-employed and have always run a successful business. Can you offer any tax advice before the end of this dismal year?

Paul

A As the holidays get closer, most Canadians are gearing up for shopping, vacations and festivities — not tax planning. However, a little time spent now may translate into substantial savings in the New Year.

- Consider paying family members that work in the business. They may be taxed at a lower marginal tax rate.
- Purchase assets for use in business before fiscal year-end. Although you cannot deduct the entire amount, CCA is available.
- Keep a close watch on your credit. Banks are reducing and, in some instances, retiring loans.
- Sell stocks with losses

MoneyMatters

Henry Choo Chong

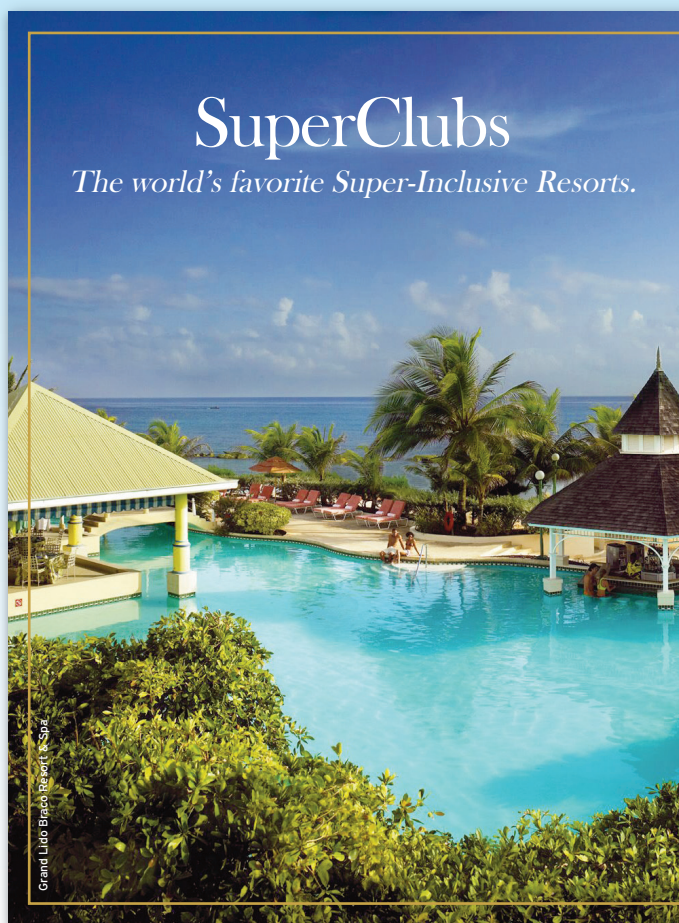
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that you can apply to reduce realized capital gains in the current year or past three years. Check with your broker.

- Pay yourself first. RRSP contributions not made by Dec. 31, 2008, can be made on or before March 2, 2009, for deduction in 2008.
- Donate to a charitable organization before Dec. 31. If you donate stocks that have appreciated, you may pay zero tax on capital gains and get a donation credit for contributions.

Henry Choo Chong, CGA, provides professional accounting and taxation solutions: choochonghcg@yahoo.ca.

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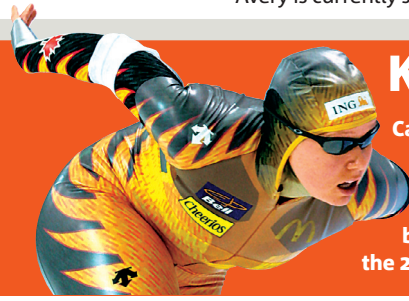
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Sean Avery's fate will the Dallas Stars could be decided tomorrow. The team's brass will meet tomorrow afternoon to discuss the Avery situation in depth. Avery is currently serving a six-game suspension for making a crude remark last week. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports

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Klassen won't race this season

Canadian speedskater Cindy Klassen, left, put the brakes on her return from knee surgery and has decided not to race this season. The winner of six Olympic medals wants time for her knees to heal before she steps to the start line again. The 29-year old Winnipeg native hasn't put her skates back on since arthroscopic surgery in July. Klassen says her priority remains the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sens can't put away Panthers

NHL RESULT

Panthers 4 Senators 3 (OT)



MIKE BEASLEY
for Metro Ottawa



Florida's Tanner Glass fights Chris Neil during the second period last night.

THE SKINNY: The Florida Panthers fought back from one goal deficits on three different occasions before stealing the win from the Senators with seconds remaining in overtime.

THE WINNING GOAL: Florida's Stephen Weiss fired a slap-shot over the glove of Senators goaltender Alex Auld with 9.1 ticks on the overtime clock to give the Panthers the win.

THE BIG LINE: The Senators top line of Dany Heatley, Jason Spezza and Daniel Alfredsson chipped in with another three points giving the talented trio a total of 23 in Ottawa's last six games.

THE QUOTE: "I have to give Florida credit, they came out and kept working all night," Ottawa head coach Craig Hartsburg said. "I've always said they are one of the hardest working teams in the

league."

THE SECOND PERIOD SHOOTOUT: Both teams scored a pair of goals in the middle frame after combining for 33 shots on goal.

THE NEW THREADS: Ottawa lost for the first time in four games when wearing their new black sweaters. The Senators unveiled the club's third jerseys in a game against the New York Rangers on November 22.

THE RUGGED WINGER: Ottawa's Chris Neil dropped the gloves for the second time in as many games since returning to the Senators line-up last Saturday against Pittsburgh. Neil missed six games with a knee injury.

THE NEXT GAME: The Senators are in Chicago tomorrow night to face the Blackhawks.

Sabres-to-Hamilton talk denied by owners

NHL In Buffalo, they're continually denying. In Hamilton, they're once again hopeful.

The hockey link between these two steel cities — based on the great mystery that is the sale of the Buffalo Sabres — roared to life again yesterday, but for very different reasons.

Sabres owners flatly and consistently denied their club is for sale, and that they have had exploratory talks with Blackberry founder and billionaire Jim Balsillie about the purchase of the team. Those talks are the subject of an upcoming Western New York hockey magazine story, and have revived the possibility in Hamilton that the city's doors for an NHL franchise

are open again after being repeatedly slammed shut in several previous scenarios involving Balsillie.

"Tom (Golisano) is not shopping the team, and I have approached nobody," said Sabres managing partner Larry Quinn, who is said in the report to have approached Balsillie.

"And I would never discuss selling this team to anyone who would move it."

The magazine story claims the Balsillie-Sabres talks are in preliminary stages, and will be brought up at the ongoing NHL board of governors meetings in Florida this week.

Balsillie had been in a separate negotiation to purchase the Pittsburgh Penguins, and is reportedly still trying to purchase 27 per cent of the Predators (if the portions of the shares of the now indicted, former Preds owner William Boots Del Baggio, are turned over to the open market).

Balsillie was granted permission by the NHL to enter purchase talks with Nashville in 2007, but he initiated a season ticket drive in Hamilton while the talks were ongoing, drawing the ire of the NHL and ultimately scuttling the talks.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toews says so long to sophomore slump

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Jonathan Toews had heard of sophomore slumps, but the Chicago Blackhawks forward didn't believe in them.

So when he started the year with no goals and just seven assists in his first 12 games, he didn't fret, even though he carried the weight of a franchise on his shoulders after being named one of the youngest captains in NHL history in July.

Instead, the Winnipeg native righted the ship. After scoring his first goal on Nov. 9, Toews has been flying high, with eight goals and seven assists in his past 13 games. He was named the NHL's second star of the week yesterday. "I think (af-

ter your rookie year), reality sets in where you're not in dreamland anymore," Toews said. "You've got to earn every point and every chance offensively, and every little thing that you do, you've got to work harder for it. "It's great to finally get through that."

The 6-foot-2, 203-pounder's turnaround — along with lights-out play of fellow super-sophomore Patrick Kane — has Chicago suddenly looking like a playoff team, something it hasn't been since the days of Tony Amonte in

2002.

The Blackhawks actually struggled out of the gate, going 1-2-2, but fired head coach Denis Savard on Oct. 16 and replaced him with Joel Quenneville. That signalled a turnaround for a young, skilled team that needed to be reined in.

"We get overexcited, we want to attack and go after the puck, and we're a young, energetic team," Toews said. "Quenneville has tried to teach us that sometimes it's better just to sit back, re-

lax and let the other team make mistakes."

Toews is battling a nasty cold this week, something he'll want to kick in the next few weeks. The Blackhawks will play an outdoor game — the Winter Classic — against the Detroit Red Wings on New Year's Day at Wrigley Field.

Toews watched last year's Winter Classic, played between the Pittsburgh Penguins and Buffalo Sabres before an NHL-record crowd of 71,217 at Ralph Wilson Stadium. Wrigley Field is expected to seat 41,000.

"There won't be 70,000 people at our game, but I think the energy's going to be similar," Toews said. "That whole kind of big-show atmosphere is going to be pretty cool to be a part of, and we're all looking forward to that."



SCOREBOARD

NHL	TONIGHT'S GAMES	NBA
YESTERDAY'S RESULTS Florida 4 OTTAWA 3 (OT) Toronto 4 N.Y. Islanders 2 Boston 5 Tampa Bay 3 Buffalo 4 Pittsburgh 3 Nashville at St. Louis	N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia Calgary at Montreal Vancouver at Nashville Los Angeles at Colorado (rescheduled from Dec. 10)	YESTERDAY'S RESULTS Miami 100 Charlotte 96 Houston 109 Memphis 97 Golden State 112 Oklahoma City 102 Orlando at L.A. Clippers

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Health & Beauty

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Breast tissue regrowth

Self-renewing cells are crucial in clues to cancer prevention

CELIA MILNE
for Metro Canada



Scientists in Vancouver have been able to regrow a complete mammary gland using breast stem cells.

This is an important development as the world inches closer to stopping breast cancer before it takes hold.

A team from the B.C. Cancer Agency used healthy breast tissue leftover from breast-reduction surgery. They isolated the stem cells — the cells that are best at self-renewing. Then, they inserted these human stem cells into a special type of mouse developed for this purpose. “The cells grow. They make mini human mammary glands,” said Dr. Connie Eaves, director of the B.C. Cancer Agency’s Terry Fox Laboratory, and a senior author of the team’s study. Previously, scientists had

been able to regrow mouse mammary glands from stem cells, but not human ones, so this is an exciting breakthrough, explained Dr. Eaves. The team’s paper was published at the end of November in the medical journal *Nature Medicine*.

Investigators around the world believe that the stem cells are the culprits in breast cancer. Understanding the fundamental mechanisms of stem cells takes scientists one step closer to figuring out how breast cancer starts. “It is important to understand that cell — what makes it grow,” said Dr. Eaves. Now researchers can zero in on what goes wrong at the cellular level in cases of breast cancer.

It may take at least a decade to design drugs that target those faulty stem cells, but progress is being made. “Studying the cells will help us understand them and that will lead to

“Studying the cells will help us understand them and that will lead to better treatments.”

Dr. Connie Eaves, director of the B.C. Cancer Agency’s Terry Fox Laboratory

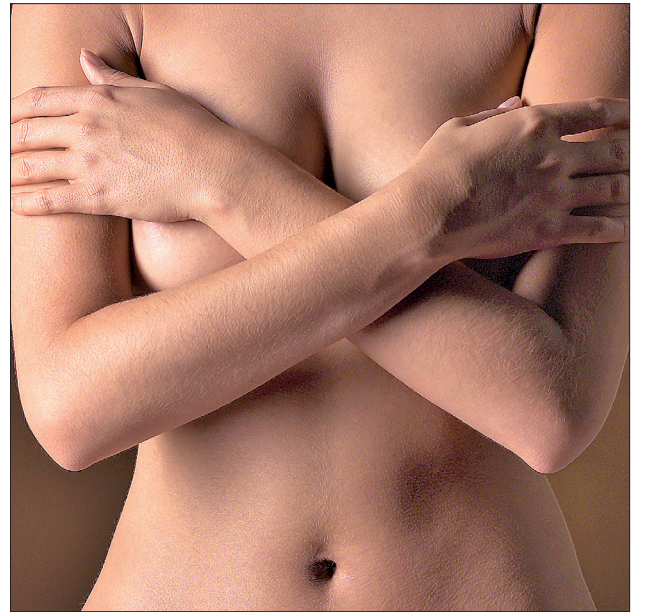
better treatments,” added Dr. Eaves. Breast cancer is the most common cancer in Canadian women, with more than 22,000 new cases each year.

Said co-author Dr. Samuel Aparicio of the B.C. Cancer Agency: “The long-term aim is to figure out what makes normal breast stem cells tick and then use this information to see what may be high-jacked or distorted when these cells become malignant.”

Two years ago, researchers at Harvard speculated that one day it would be possible to inject healthy breast stem cells into women who have undergone breast cancer surgery, with the hope of

growing new breasts without the cancer cells.

One of the challenges of the new Vancouver study was to find a way to get human cells to grow in mice without the mice rejecting them. The team used special mice whose immune systems had been turned off, but whose blood supply would nourish the human cells and help them grow. The human stem cells were suspended in a gelatin disc and then the disc was



B.C. scientists discovered they could regrow a mammary gland using breast stem cells — the cells that are best at regenerating.

slipped under the capsule that surrounds the kidneys of the mice. Lo and behold: Fed by the blood supply of the mice, the transplanted human stem cells were able

to regrow a complete, miniature, milk-producing mammary gland, proving that the normal female breast contains cells that can regenerate.

Teens need sound sex education

The J Spot

Josey Vogels

Sex talk with Josey

Controversy over a British plan to offer contraceptive injections to teenage girls as young as 13 has the usual knickers in a twist. Critics are concerned the plan will promote underage sex and help spread sexually transmitted diseases.

It’s the same argument that gets hauled out against sex education. As if young people never think about sex until an adult comes along, rips open a condom in front of them and shows them how to use it.

The truth is, in today’s sexually saturated culture, kids are exposed to more information about sex than ever before and sound, comprehensive sex education starting at a young age is crucial.

Besides, it seems to be working. Despite popular

belief, in recent years, teenage pregnancy rates have fallen and the age of first sex has risen in both the U.S. and Canada. Even in England, teen pregnancies are down overall, except in high-risk,

usually low-income areas that are being targeted for this program.

And even in these areas, sexual health-care workers admit the vast majority of 13-year-olds are not sexually active, and most of the teenage pregnancies they see happen at age 16 or 17.

Also, it’s not like they’re running around, capturing 13-year-olds and forcefully injecting them with Depo-Provera, the contraceptive being used for the program that prevents pregnancy for three months at a time. The injections are being offered by trained professionals that talk to these girls about why they are having sex and explain the risks of sexually transmitted infections.

Rather than panicking that we’re encouraging girls as young as 13 to have sex by offering them contraception, isn’t it better to admit that some are having sex and offer them education and options to ward off the consequences (that is, becoming a poor single, teenage mom)?

As if young people never think about sex until an adult comes along, rips open a condom in front of them and shows them how to use it.

Providing comprehensive sex education and making contraception choices available to teens does not encourage promiscuity or the spread of STDs any more than urging people to wear seatbelts encourages risky driving and causes more accidents. If anything, it makes you more aware that the activity you are engaging in has serious consequences and that you can make individual choices to protect yourself against those consequences.

And nobody is ever too young to learn that.

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit joseyvogels.com.

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**DRY MOUTH? YOU MAY NEED MORE THAN
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Do you ever find that your mouth gets so dry that you experience hoarseness, a sore throat, a burning sensation or difficulty speaking? If this is not a common occurrence, you may simply require a glass of water to solve the problem.

However, some people suffer from these conditions on a regular basis. They routinely have difficulty producing the level of saliva their mouths require. And this is not a problem that should be taken lightly. The lack of saliva associated with dry mouth can have serious consequences on your oral health.

Saliva plays an important role in helping to keep the mouth clean. A healthy flow of saliva will wash away a great deal of food and plaque that otherwise builds up. It is also critical to control the level of bacteria and fungi in the mouth. Without saliva, you will have an increased risk of developing cavities, periodontal disease or other infections.

Dry mouth may be caused by a number of factors. It is a common side effect for many medications, both prescription and non-prescription. In fact, people with high blood pressure often experience dry mouth as a side effect

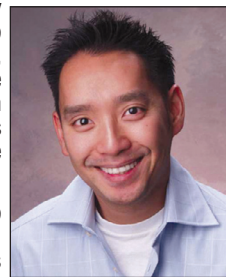
of their medication.

If this is the case for you, it is advisable that you discuss this with your doctor. It may be necessary to adjust the dosage, or perhaps change medication to an alternative that does not result in this side effect.

In addition to medication, certain medical conditions may also cause dry mouth. For instance, it is common amongst those who suffer from anemia, diabetes or HIV. And of course, smoking is also a known cause.

Obviously, smokers could see the severity of their symptoms reduced significantly by quitting smoking. Other treatments can also be quite simple. For instance, chewing sugar-free gum may stimulate saliva production. Increasing water consumption can also keep the mouth moist (and it also has other health benefits related to weight loss!). You might also consider using a room vaporizer in your bedroom to keep the air moist.

For some, these simple solutions may not be sufficient. Other alternatives may have to be considered, such as oral rinses or even medication that stimulates saliva production.



**Dr. Bao Nguyen
Dental Surgeon**

If you suffer from dry mouth, it is vital that you brush your teeth with a fluoride toothpaste on a regular basis. You should also add a fluoride rinse to your oral health regimen. Without the protection afforded by saliva, your teeth need this additional protection to fight cavities and periodontal disease.

It is also recommended that you visit your dentist more often than the customary two visits per year. Oral health issues may develop more quickly due to dry mouth, and extra diligence will be necessary to protect yourself from them.

The bottom line is that dry mouth can be more than a nuisance. It can be a serious oral health issue that requires serious treatment... because treating dry mouth is a healthy habit...and healthy habits lead to healthy lives.

Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Madagascar ends Bond's foreign rule

MOVIES A batch of Central Park zoo animals returning to their jungle habitat ended James Bond's five-week domination of the international box office.

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa, which began a record-busting rollout in late October in eastern Europe, roared to an estimated \$52.2 US million from 35 territories during the weekend. The film's foreign gross soared to \$125 million.

In the U.K., the zoo brigade charged in at No. 1 to \$9.5 million. The animated entry also was No. 1 in Germany (\$11 million), France (\$9.8 million), Mexico (\$4.2 million), Belgium (\$1.6 million), Argentina (\$1.2 million) and Austria (\$1.1 million). **REUTERS**

Nico proves he can dance

RICK MCGINNIS
Metro Canada

After 13 weeks moving slowly toward centre stage on the biggest TV show in Canada, Montreal's Nico Archambault became the first winner of the homegrown version of *So You Think You Can Dance*, though talking to him a day after his win, he admits he was sure he was going home weeks ago.

"I never felt safe," he tells me. "You can get a lot of praise and then if you mess up the next week, you're done. I have to say after my waltz I thought I was going to leave. The standard ballroom is hard. For a start, it's not really entertaining, and it looks easy, but it's not. People say 'why did you mess it



Nico Archambault, winner of the first season of *So You Think You Can Dance Canada*.

up, it looks so easy."

With a background in hip hop and contemporary, he says that he felt like he had the basics to take on the show's weekly challenges, but that his first big test came right after he made it into the top 10. "The first week I

picked salsa, which is totally new to me, and I'm partnering the Cuban girl (Arrasay Reyes)," he recalls. "But she was really good, and she was patient and really helped me."

Looking back, the standard ballroom dances were his biggest challenge, com-

ing from a place utterly different from his training and taste, but he answers immediately when I ask him about what scared him the most. "It's gotta be the quickstep," he says. "I would never have done that. I wouldn't want to do it — honestly, from an outside point of view, and me coming from a contemporary and hip-hop background, I like everything that is twisted, quirky, dirty, weird. I like that. This is me."

"To me all the standard ballroom looked boring — I have to say it. But the show forces you to step into it, to embrace it, because you're going to be onstage performing it after five hours of rehearsal, so you'd better get into it. And by doing it I realized how hard it is — it's not natural for a body to look like that, and to move with

"I never felt safe. You can get a lot of praise and then if you mess up the next week, you're done."

Nico Archambault

another body."

Right now, his next gig is the cross-Canada tour for the show, but he admits that his schedule gets a lot more vague after that. "I don't know, and I like it. I'm really excited to see what's going to happen. There's already people on the show — judges and choreographers — who've said they want to work with me. I need to move around and see different stuff and do different projects."

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Bear Grylls recovering after fall

Man Vs. Wild star Bear Grylls is recovering in a U.K. hospital after fracturing his shoulder in a fall while on an expedition across Antarctica. [IMDB.COM](#)



Allie Bertram

'Little mouse' ready to tour

RICK MCGINNIS
Metro Canada

From her first moment on-stage, Calgary's Allie Bertram had a singular role in the cast of dancers dancing together and in competition for the winner's circle in *So You Think You Can Dance Canada*.

Petite and sweet-tempered, the 18-year-old became judge Luther Brown's "little mouse," and her classical training was actually considered a liability. After all, a ballerina had never made it into the show's final 10, never mind runner-up to Nico Archambault at the show's finale.

"I was comfortable with it," she says, looking back. "That's who I am, and that's truly who I came into this competition as, and I thought it was great that he was talking about me as his little ballerina, as I was doing these Latin dances or these hip-hop dances."

She admits that she had to escape a lot of habits drilled into her after years of training. "I think it was letting go. I'm used to standing upright. Especially during our first hip hop with Danny (Arbour) it was so hard for me to get out of character and be mean or tough. But by the time I did my second hip hop I was so ready."

She says that right now, she's anxious for the show's tour to begin, and gives a glimpse of the camaraderie that defines the show's appeal. "Honestly I can't wait — to get back together with the top 10, I'm going to be so excited."

For DVD reviews of The Dark Knight, Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who and I Am Legend, visit [metronews.ca](#)

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

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Backstabbing in boardrooms

IntelleVision



THE NETWORK THAT WENT CRAZY: I'm not sure how much readers care about the Rome-at-empire's-end court politics at the number four U.S. network; I have to write about TV five days a week, so it's probably no surprise that this sort of flailing folly of backstabbing and corporate intrigue fascinates me.

Perhaps it's a sort of emotional Stockholm Syndrome, which has left me in thrall to the beat that holds me captive, but the success of shows like *Entourage* tells me that I might not be alone.

My source, as usual, is Nikki Finke of L.A. Weekly, whose fascination with Ben Silverman's tenure as co-chairman of NBC entertainment and television makes mine seem restrained. Following up on her earlier predictions of heads rolling in time for the holidays, she managed

to pre-empt Silverman's own attempt to hide the firing of three senior programming executives in the hurly-burly of holiday news.

"The network/studio hoped to then spin this as part of cost-cutting rather than more evidence of failure," writes Finke. "But I messed up their plans. My bad."

The basic news is that NBC management has shifted the blame for their underperforming season on two women and one man — the heads of executive vice-president of NBC Entertainment, the president of Universal Studio Media and the head of reality programming respectively.

Katherine Pope had wanted to leave the network for a year, ever since half of her job at Universal Studio Media was given away, and Teri Weinberg, who was brought to the company by Silverman, has been marked for death ever since the network had to give a sweetheart kiss-off deal to a group of writer/producers, one of whom was Weinberg's boyfriend.

Craig Plestis, the man in charge of NBC's reality programs, was let go because, well, do I need to utter the dread words *Baby Borrowers* aloud?

When things are as bad as they've become for NBC, rational explanations no longer hold sway — Pope was apparently more than competent at what she did (she had ameliorated *Law & Order* creator Dick Wolf's frayed relationship with the network), but Silverman apparently hated her, while Silverman's bulletproof status can be explained as a simple by-product of General Electric CEO Jeffrey Immelt's fondness for his favorite executive party boy.

For his part, Silverman is bringing in Paul Telegdy from the BBC to take Plestis' job so that Silverman will feel like he has "another dude" and "more friends" around him, according to Finke.

Proof, were it needed, that high school never really ends, just summer vacation.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

John Adams' scribe to adapt polygamy story

NEW GIG Kirk Ellis, the Emmy-winning scribe of the HBO miniseries *John Adams*, has been hired to write *Escape*, starring Katherine Heigl.

The project tells the true

story of Carolyn Jessop, who after years of being in a forced polygamous marriage, escaped from the Fundamentalist Church of Latter Day Saints with her eight children. **REUTERS**



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critics'corner

Christmas at the Concert Hall
Yes, there's an awful lot of holiday music on the tube. But this new special is one worth checking out, as it's got a nice variety of artists, including Holly Cole, Ed Robertson, Hawksley Workman and Serena Ryder, performing seasonal favorites from this charming new Bravo! venue. 10 PM on 40 BVO



NCIS
Like the "Murder, She Wrote" heroine who kept losing friends to murder, Ducky's had one assistant incapacitated by a gunshot, and now his current right-hand man, Jimmy Palmer, has become the target of a killer. Gibbs and the team scramble to solve the case and save their friend in "About Face." 8 PM on 13 CBS; 9:01 PM on 3 GTV

Barenaked for the Holidays
No, nobody is getting naked in this special. A repeat holiday favorite, the band Barenaked Ladies performs songs from its CD of holiday tunes. Numbers include original Christmas songs, skewed versions of traditional ones and a few standards. 9 PM on 40 BVO

OT	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/08	265	353	2	TVO	Blue Realm		The Agenda With Steve Paikin	The Street		The Choir (Part 1 of 4)		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	House (HDTV) (N)	(9:01) NCIS (HDTV)		Kitchen Nightmares		News (N)
	-	-	5	SRC	Virginie (SC)	La Factice	Têtes à claques	Filantes	Filantes	Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)		La Zone
	209	342	6	CHRO	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Funniest Home Videos	(9:01) Fringe (HDTV)		Eli Stone "Help!" (N)		News (N)
	196	311	7	CTV	Hollywood	etalk	Shrek *** (2001, Comedy) Voices of Mike Myers.			Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
	208	303	8	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Legend of Frosty	The Tudors (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	-	360	9	NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Biggest Loser: Families (N)			Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
	117	713	10	TVA	Les Anges de la rénovation		Dr. House (HDTV) (SC)	La Promesse (HDTV) (N) (SC)		TVA 22 heures (10:45) La Vraie nature		
	-	-	11	QS	Le Voeu de Noël (2004, Com. dramatique) Elisa Donovan.		Pushing Daisies (SC)			Cent dix pour cent (SC)		Msr Showbiz
	137	763	12	TFO	Panorama		Canada Villages	La Religieuse *** (1966, Drame) Anna Karina, Lilo Pulver.				Astroboy
news	-	362	13	CBS	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		NCIS "About Face"	The Mentalist (HDTV)		Without a Trace (HDTV)		Two/Half Men
	216	395	14	OMN2	Cold Case		News (N)	News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Privileged (HDTV)	According-Jim	According-Jim	Hates Chris	Friends	News (N)
	115	343	16	CFMT	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)	Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	218	345	18	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	The Biggest Loser: Families (N)			The Best Years (DVS)		News (N)
	-	361	20	ABC	News (N)	Entertainment	Funniest Home Videos	According-Jim	According-Jim	Eli Stone "Help!" (N)		News (N)
	512	396	24	CPAC	La Période de questions		Heure polit.	L'Heure politique		Revue		Période-quest.
	651	355	25	CTS	Happy Days	Laverne	Michael Coren Show	100 Huntley Street		Life Today	This Is Day	John Hagee
	-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	House (HDTV) (N)	(9:01) Fringe (HDTV)		News (N)		News
	-	-	64	PBS	Business Rpt.	Whiz Quiz	Nova (DVS)	Frontline (DVS)		Wolves in Paradise		Tavis Smiley
sports	205	312	104	CCTV	Hollywood	etalk	Shrek *** (2001, Comedy) Voices of Mike Myers.			Law & Order: SVU		News (N)
	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour	CBC News: The National		Capturing a Short Life		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias	Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	406	417	27	net	Skiing: FIS World Cup Alpine		Skiing: FIS World Cup Alpine	Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes			Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	NBA Basketball Toronto Raptors at Cleveland Cavaliers. (HDTV) (Live)			SportsCentre		That's Hockey!		SportsCentre
	410	403	52	SCR	Cabby Unlimit	Court Surfing	NBA news, scores and highlights.			Score Tonight		Hockey Talk
	411	457	56	OLN	Ed's Up	Videos	Survivorman	Angry Planet	Word Travels	Which Way to... "Luxor"		Pilot Guides
	417	406	59	SC	Pinks	Pass Time	Low Life	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Unique Whips	Hot Import	Pinks
	554	544	48	TEL	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show	Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Rick & Steve
family	557	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	551	542	65	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Fresh Prince	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline Proj
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	628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed		MANswers (N)
	521	560	34	TLC	I Am My Own Twin		My Shocking Story (N)	Mystery Diagnosis		Dr. G: Medical Examiner		Shocking Story
	145	761	35	TV5	Toute une histoire		Voici venir l'orage		Chateaux	Champ. nature	Humanima	Journal TV5
	616	521	39	SHO	About a Girl	About a Girl	The Best Years (DVS)	Testees	Trailer Park	House "Insensitive"		House
	620	523	40	BVO	Desperate Housewives		Live at the Rehearsal Hall	Barenaked for the Holidays		Christmas at the Concert Hall		Law & Order
	520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)		How It's Made	Destroyed	Destroyed	Dirty Jobs		Daily Planet
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	601	562	45	SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Wedding SOS	In Laws	Rich Bride, Poor Bride	Tori & Dean: Home		ET Canada
	625	548	46	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	S. Silverman	Fit-Conchords	Daily Show
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Blood Work ** (2002, Suspense) Clint Eastwood, Jeff Daniels.			Seinfeld		Family Guy
	600	564	49	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Pure Design	Style	Sarah's House	Design Inc.		Holmes-Homes
	627	528	50	SPC	Lost		Star Trek: Next Gener.	Battlestar Galactica		Rabbit Fall (N)	The Circuit	Stargate SG-1
	581	566	53	MTV	Busted	After	MTV News	Cribs		A Double Shot of Love		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210		Planet Soap	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	King	Family Guy
	522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "Silver War"		Outlaw Bikers		Ax Men	NCIS "Silver War"		Crime Stories
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	602	567	62	W	Will & Grace	Friends	How to Look Good Naked		Style by Jury		Style by Jury	Maxed Out
	269	350	70	APTN	Wings-Canada	Great Towns	Wapos Bay (N)	Rez Rides	Fish Out of	Mixed Blessing		Moccasin Flats
	621	527	71	TLK	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	Ultimate Super Heroes-Villains			TMZ
	603	561	95	FN	The Main	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		The F Word			Restaurant

Celebrity Buzz

Lohan's pricey leggings a hit

CLOTHING Actress Lindsay Lohan has managed to defy the global economic downturn — her new line of leggings has sold out in boutiques across the world, **imdb.com** reports.

The products from her 6126 collection, ranging in price from \$44 to \$132 US, have become bestsellers.

The leggings come in 35 colours and patterns and are also said to have scored record sales in U.S. stores, including Henri Bendel, Nordstrom, Intermix and Lisa Kline.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Dane rescues injured pooch

PEOPLE Grey's Anatomy star Eric Dane nursed an injured chihuahua back to health when the little dog's guardian tossed her from a moving car, **imdb.com** reports.

The pooch suffered a broken leg and was limping around L.A.'s Larchmont shopping district when Dane spotted it.

"My wife thought I was the sweetest guy in the world for taking that dog, until I told her to take care of the dog."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

I'll strip down for Bertolucci: Emma

CAREER Actress Emma Watson is willing to be naked on the big screen, as long as she is directed by acclaimed filmmaker Bernardo Bertolucci, **imdb.com** reports.

She adds: "I'm not getting my kit off any time soon, but it is part of my job."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Allen renounces party-girl ways

PEOPLE Don't expect one-time party girl Lily Allen to stumble out of a club anytime soon, **People.com** reports.

"I've become a character in a comic ... and that character is always drunk. I wish my comic character wasn't that," the singer told the U.K.'s Observer Music Monthly.

Allen claims she's been off alcohol since Sept. 22, and doesn't plan on indulging again — at least for now.

"I have no intention of taking drugs again at the moment," she said. "But I can't say, 'Never again,' because I don't know where I'll be in 10 years' time. And I will definitely drink in the future, just not for awhile."

Gearing up for the release of her second studio album *It's Not Me, It's You*, the 23-year-old continues

to battle insecurities with her weight and appearance.

"My mum al-

ways told me, 'You're beautiful, you're my beautiful little girl,' and then suddenly I wasn't," she said. "I read all the stuff that people were writing about me and I started to get a different view. I mean, I never thought I was supermodel or anything, but I didn't think I was quite as unattractive as people were saying."

Meanwhile, in another interview, Allen said her friend, singer Amy Winehouse, whom she knows "very well," is different from how she's portrayed by the media.

"(She's) a very clever, intelligent, witty, funny person who can hold it together," she said. "You just don't see that side. She gets a really hard time."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Money woes may have ruined union

BREAKUP Actress Jodie Sweetin's marriage to Cody Herpin broke down following the near foreclosure of their home and a range of money woes, according to U.S. reports.

The former *Full House* star, 26, filed for legal separation from Herpin, 31, in November, just seven months after giving birth to the couple's first child, **imdb.com** reports.

The pair had even announced plans for a reality show, based on their family life, before the split.

In court documents, obtained by **People.com**, Sweetin blames her es-

tranged husband's lack of employment as the main factor behind their relationship troubles.

"Our house is in foreclosure, our water has been shut off twice. Currently, all of our other utilities are overdue," Sweetin states. "(Herpin) kept finding one excuse after another for his failure to even attempt to find employment."

According to **People.com**, Sweetin also claims the couple were surviving from residuals from *Full House* reruns and help from her parents.

Sweetin has filed for joint custody of their baby daughter Zoie. A hearing for the case is set for Feb. 9.

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Aniston proves teacher wrong

CAREER Jennifer Aniston partly owes her success to a harsh teacher who insisted she'd never make it as an actress, **imdb.com** reports.

The former *Friends* star was ridiculed and slated by the coach during her school days, and set out to prove him wrong.

"I was in the High School of Performing Arts and my acting coach told me that I was a disgrace to the Moscow Theatre," Aniston says. "I was deter-

mined to prove him wrong and do good work."

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GETTY IMAGE PHOTOS

Kate dismisses photo-op qualms

PEOPLE Kate Winslet balked at the idea of shedding her clothes for a new *Vanity Fair* photoshoot until she realized photographer Steven Meisel, the man behind the shots in Madonna's *Sex* book, would be behind the lens, **imdb.com** reports.

The actress had no idea she'd be baring all until magazine bosses hit her with the concept on the day of the shoot.

Winslet's reservations quickly disappeared as she reminded herself what a great opportunity she was being given.

"I didn't go into that shoot knowing the concept ... but when you're asked to be on the cover of *Vanity*

Fair and photographed by Steven Meisel, it's a wonderful thing to experience," she says. "It's a fantastic opportunity just to be able to have that memory in your lifetime ... I thought, 'Yeah, damn it, I am; I'm 33, I've had two kids, Steven Meisel is taking pictures of me naked. This is never gonna happen again.' I transported myself 30 years on and I wanted to be able to say, 'Yeah, I did that.' That was one of those crazy, wonderful things and I'm really happy to have that memory. I have the prints from the shoot that Steven gave me at the end of the day that were taken out of the camera and were blown up."

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Hubby wants \$1.46M from Amy?

BREAKUP The husband of singer Amy Winehouse is reportedly demanding a \$1.46-million US payoff to keep quiet about their marriage, **femalefirst.co.uk** reports.

Blake Fielder-Civil vowed last month to split from Winehouse to help her win her alleged struggle with drugs. But according to

a British tabloid, he has now demanded cash from the singer's manager and threatened to write a tell-all book about his relationship with Winehouse if he isn't paid.

"He's so two-faced. He just wants a payoff. Money's his driving force," a source tells **Britain's News of the World**.

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Belonging to men sexy: Eva

DATING Eva Mendes thinks "belonging" to a man is sexy, **femalefirst.co.uk** reports.

The actress, who is in a relationship with producer George Gargurevich, loves the feeling of being looked after by her boyfriends.

"The flip side to this strong ca-

reer woman you see is a woman who loves belonging to her man's woman. It's just sexy to belong to a man," she says. "Of course, we don't belong to anyone but ourselves, but how boring. There's a certain part of me that's like, 'Please take care of me.' It's just a natural thing. But I'm not sure if every woman has it."

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